Plantation of trees in drought prone areas

246. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any action plan for large scale tree plantation in drought prone areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds earmarked for the purpose during the last two years and the funds actually utilised during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of Andhra Pradesh is implementing Clean and Green programme for the last three years under which large number of seedlings are raised for plantation on forest and non-forest lands, with major thrust on drought prone areas. Details of funds allocated and utilised for this purpose during the last two years in drought prone districts of Andhra Pradesh are given below:

Rs. in lakhs

1998-99		1999-2000	
Allocation	Utilisation	Allocation	Utilisation
10205.56	9782.55	9842.19	9251.42

Forestry projects of Orissa

247. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the forestry projects being implemented in Orissa at present;

(b) the amount spent on these projects during the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan periods;

(c) the progress of these projects, till date; and

(d) the steps taken to bridge the gap between deforestation and afforestation in that State?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Details of Central assistance provided during the Eighth Five Year Plan and in the Ninth Five Year Plan so far to Government of Orissa for implementation of forestry projects under the Centrally sponsored forestry schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, namely, Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme, Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme, Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme, Modern Forest Fire Control Methods Scheme, Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded Forests on Usufruct Sharing Basis Scheme and Assistance for Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, along with achievements, are given in the Statement-I (*See* below). In addition, during 1997-99, Rs. 1.28 crore were spent under an externally-aided project aimed at capacity building for participatory and sustainable management of degraded forests. The steps taken to bridge the gap between afforestation and deforestation are given in the Statement-II (*See* below).

Statement-I

Forestry projects of Orissa

Financial: Rs. in lakhs/Physical: Area in hectares

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Central assistance provided to Orissa in the Eighth Plan	Achievement During the Eighth Plan (Area covered)	Amount released during the Ninth Plan (upto 2000-01)	Achievement Durirg the Ninth Plan (Area covered/other achievements)
1.	Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme	796.32	25,904	373.00	11833
2.	Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme	242.40	3,666	1145.26	10693
3.	Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme	654.88	14,770	398.96	4318
4.	Modern Forest Fire Control Methods Scheme	49.62	Incidences of forest fires in Orissa have reduced significantly.	52.92	Incidences of forest fires in Orissa have reduced significantly.
5.	Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded forests on Usufruct Sharing Basis Scheme	112.45	During VIII Plan, only Rs. 9.46 lakhs has been utilised. The balance amount has been carried forward to the IX Plan as spilled over works.	76.52*	1799
6.	Assistance for Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	248.93	Assistance provided to 2 national parks and 17 Wildlife Sanctuaries.	201.19	Assistance provided to one national park and 7 Wildlife Sanctuaries.

* Includes unspent balance of the Eighth Plan available with the State Government.

Statement-II

Steps taken to bridge the gap between afforestation and deforestation

(1) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has formulated National Forestry Action Programme, a perspective plan for twenty years, to increase forest/tree cover to 33% of the land area as mandated in the National Forest Policy, 1988.

(2) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State/UT Governments from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from the Government of India.

(3) Externally-aided projects are implemented for development and preservation of forests.

(4) Guidelines to all State/UT Governments to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests have been issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(5) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forests lands for non forestry purposes.

(6) A network of protected areas has been established for conservation of biodiversity.

(7) A Joint Forest Management Cell has been constituted in the Ministry for monitoring and coordinating activities of Joint Forest Management in various States and achievements of its objectives.

Import of hazardous wastes

248. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether hazardous waste is being imported into the country;

(b) if so, the extent of such imports and reasons why this waste is permitted;

(c) the manner in which such waste is disposed; and